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Molokai hotel workers told staff would be cut in half

KAUNAKAKAI, Molokai — Kaluakoi Resort and Sheraton-Molokai Hotel workers were told yesterday that staffing would be cut by at least half because of problems faced by the resort.

According to reports from Molokai, the workers were told by Kaluakoi officials that uncertainty over the proposed Kaiaka Rock Hotel was forcing the management to cut back. An estimated 400 people work for the hotel and resort.

Phil Boydston, Hawaii manager for Kaluakoi, was not available to comment last night. Several Molokai residents said they were told layoffs would start within 10 days unless an appeal of a Maui County permit for the new hotel is stopped.

The appeal was filed by a group of residents contesting hotel plans for a rocky bluff overlooking the Molokai Channel.